

Appl. No.: 10/521,065
Amdt. dated August 11, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A method of conducting a meeting comprising the steps of

A. ~~Notifying~~ Providing potential meeting attendees of said meeting with a notification of said meeting, said notification including a notice that complies with any applicable requirements, an agenda, and a digital certificate that is sufficient to authorize their attendance at an electronic meeting space reserved for said meeting;

B. Providing said electronic meeting space;

C. ~~Checking~~ Electronically checking the digital certificate of any person seeking admission to said electronic meeting space and only admitting persons having an appropriate digital certificate;

D. Monitoring the attendance in said electronic meeting space and any associated in-person meeting space and when a quorum of attendees is reached, calling said meeting to order;

E. Once a quorum of attendees has been reached and said meeting called to order, continued monitoring of the attendance in said electronic meeting space and any associated in-person meeting space and adjourning said meeting if the number of attendees ceases to be at least a quorum;

~~E. F.~~ Providing an orderly electronic discussion among the persons in attendance at the meeting; and

F. ~~G. Delivering, Electronically delivering,~~ collecting, and tabulating encrypted electronic ballots to those persons attending the meeting electronically.

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2. (Presently amended) A system for conducting concurrently a virtual and an in-person meeting comprising

[a] a computer having:

associated memory and processing means for executing ~~at least one program~~ a plurality of programs from said associated memory,

at least one communication link that can send electronic signals to, and receive electronic signals from at least one remote user

~~said at least one~~ a first program including a meeting hosting program that receives instructions from users logged onto said computer and transmits such instructions to other users concurrently logged onto said computer,

~~said at least one~~ first program including a authentication evaluating program, ~~and~~
said processing means executing said authentication evaluating program to enable said computer to evaluate [the] whether a remote user seeking access to said computer is authorized to have such access;

an in-person attendance monitor providing input to said computer to apprise said computer of the in-person attendance; and

a second program for monitoring attendance from both said in-person attendance monitor and said attendance evaluating program to determine whether the attendance is at least a quorum.

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3. (Original) A system according to claim 2 further comprising:

a means for providing any authenticated users logged on to said computer with proceedings from at least one physical meeting space concurrent with said virtual meeting.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 3 in which said means for providing users with proceedings includes at least one of the group consisting of a camera means and a microphone means.

5. (New) A system according to claim 2 further comprising:

A third program that permits an attendee to electronically transfer his right to attend a portion of the meeting to another person.